

The state of Homeshare



Homeshare in the UK 2024-25

A report by
Shared Lives Plus





Table of Contents

About this report	2
What is Homeshare?	3
Who are the Homeshare UK Network?	5
Homeshare in figures	7
Why choose Homeshare and the Homeshare UK Network?	10



About this report

We are pleased to present our Homeshare UK report for **2024-2025**. We are a membership network for Homeshare professionals and organisations across the UK. This report contains findings gathered from the majority of our members and provides valuable insights alongside reflections and statistics. This report has been co-produced in collaboration with our members, to whom we are extremely grateful.



What is Homeshare?

Homeshare brings together two people to share a home; typically, a person who would like a bit of company and extra help around their home is matched with someone who has a housing need, looking to live sociably and affordably. Homeshare helps people live well at home and supports community connections and friendships. Each person has something they need and something to give, it is a reciprocal relationship where they share time, skills and knowledge with one another.

No rent is paid by the homesharer, though they voluntarily provide around 10 hours of support each week, as well as an overnight presence, in exchange for a comfortable place to live in the householder's home. The support can include help with household tasks, as well as reassurance and friendship. No elements of personal care are provided but homesharing works well alongside care services.

But, for the householders and homesharers across our network, it is much more than that.



For instance, for Aruna and Beryl, matched by [Homeshare West](#), Homeshare brings **comfort, renewed confidence, and lasting friendship:**

When Beryl's family first suggested Homeshare, she wasn't sure what to expect. At 89, she had lived a full and generous life – first as a qualified social worker, later as a volunteer youth counsellor within her church. But after being diagnosed with dementia, and particularly after the isolating impact of the Covid lockdowns, life had started to feel more difficult.

Beryl was still remarkably independent. She kept her home in good order, looked after herself, and loved catching up with family or friends, even though they lived some distance away. When she needed major surgery, her loved ones gently encouraged her to consider having a sharer through Homeshare West. Someone who could offer companionship, a little support and the reassurance of a calm, friendly presence in the home.

That's when Aruna entered the picture.

Aruna had recently arrived in the UK on a skilled worker visa to join the care sector. Back home, she had worked for years in hospital labs and cared for her father, who lived with dementia during his final years. Thoughtful and respectful, she brought with her a quiet warmth and empathy that immediately put Beryl at ease.

"From the first week, we noticed a difference. Mum was more relaxed knowing someone was in the house. They got on straight away - it was lovely to see," said Beryl's daughter.

Aruna moved into the spare room in Beryl's bright, comfortable home, with windows looking out over the garden Beryl had tended for decades. The arrangement suited them both.

"I feel very lucky," said Aruna. "It's not just a place to live. Beryl is kind and funny, and we share stories over tea. It's a peaceful home, and I'm glad I can give something back."

For Beryl, having Aruna around brought not only companionship, but also a renewed sense of confidence. She didn't have to manage everything alone, and her family felt reassured knowing there was someone kind and capable living with her.

"We never thought Mum would enjoy sharing her home again at this stage," said Beryl's daughter. "But now I can't imagine it any other way. Aruna is like part of the family."

Two years on, the match is still going strong. There's a gentle rhythm to life in the house – shared cups of tea, quiet evenings, and support when needed.

Homeshare may have started as a practical solution, but for Beryl and Aruna, it's become something much more: a friendship that has brought joy, peace of mind and comfort to both of their lives.



Who are the Homeshare UK Network?

The Homeshare UK Network consists of local authorities, charities, Community Interest Companies and Social Enterprises. Some are just starting to grow and develop Homeshare in their local area, while others have been a long history. For instance, one of our members has been operating for over 25 years! In May 2025, the network had 16 members across the UK.



The Homeshare UK network is facilitated by Shared Lives Plus, the membership organisation for Shared Lives carers, schemes and Homeshare organisations. Shared Lives Plus helps build communities where everyone lives a full life, regardless of the support they need. We do this by encouraging Shared Lives and Homeshare to flourish, creating the right structures to guide and uplift people who want to share their lives and homes.

The Homeshare UK Network values

The Homeshare UK Network members all share a set of common values:

People have the right to remain living in their own home, with as much autonomy and independence as possible.



In- person connection is essential for effective matching.

Homeshare is a reciprocal arrangement. Both householders and homesharers have something to offer.

Matching is based on interests and the ability of the homesharer to meet the needs of the householder.

Intergenerational relationships benefit both parties.



“Homeshare UK Network members centre their practice around these shared values. They actively collaborate to drive the growth of Homeshare across the UK. United by a common vision, they aim to establish Homeshare as a widely recognised and mainstream option for those facing loneliness, seeking companionship or practical help to continue living independently in their own homes.”

– David Matthews, Homeshare Your Voice Chair and Trustee



- Homeshare Norfolk and Suffolk
 - Homeshare Living
 - Cambridge Homeshare
 - Lightshare Homesharing
 - Novus Homeshare
 - Homeshare West
 - Homeshare Leicestershire
 - Shared Homes Swansea*
- Leeds Homeshare
 - Homeshare York*
 - Homeshare Oxfordshire
 - River House Trust
 - Grace Eyre Homeshare Sussex
 - Age UK Reading Homeshare
 - Share My Home
 - North West Homeshare*
- *not currently operating

Homeshare in figures

The Homeshare UK Network demonstrates positive growth

In **2024-25**, **8** member organisations reported a total of **91** matches - a **54%** increase from the **59** matches recorded by **17** members the previous year. The number of matches per organisation range from **2** to **28**.

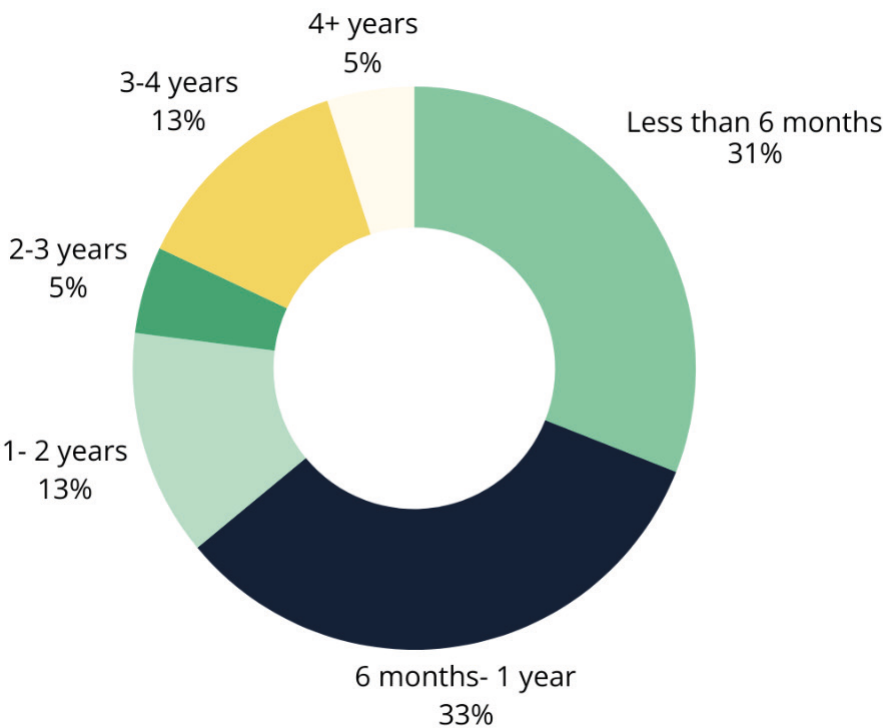


Half of of current matches¹ supported by the network were less than one year old (**64%**), however **18%** had been running for over three years and one is still going strong after more than **11** years!



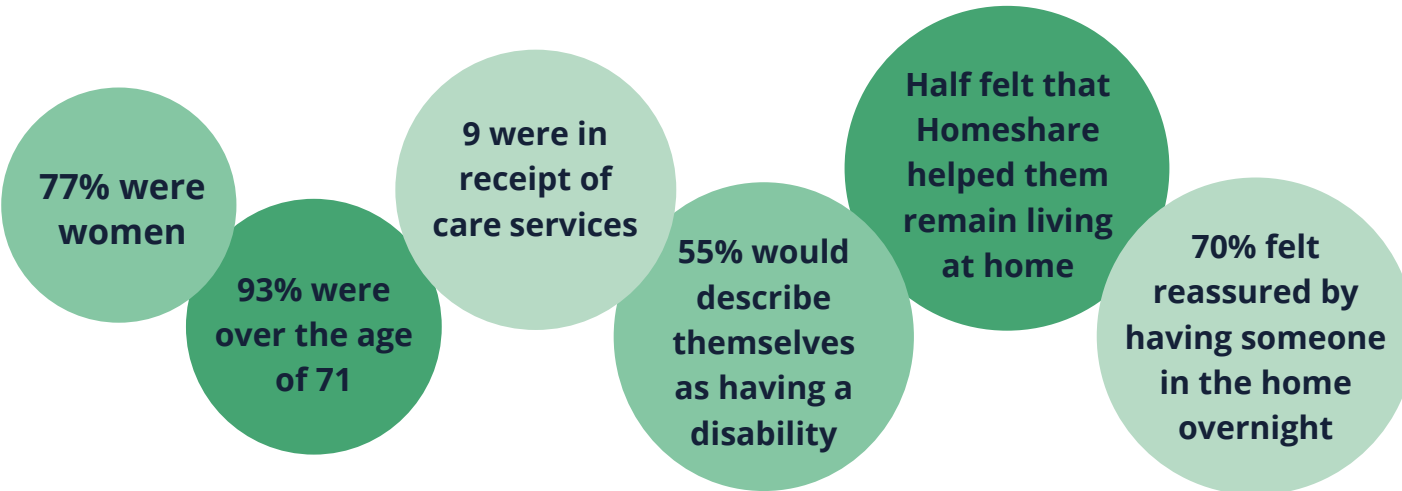
28,213 hours of support was provided by homesharers

Length of current matches



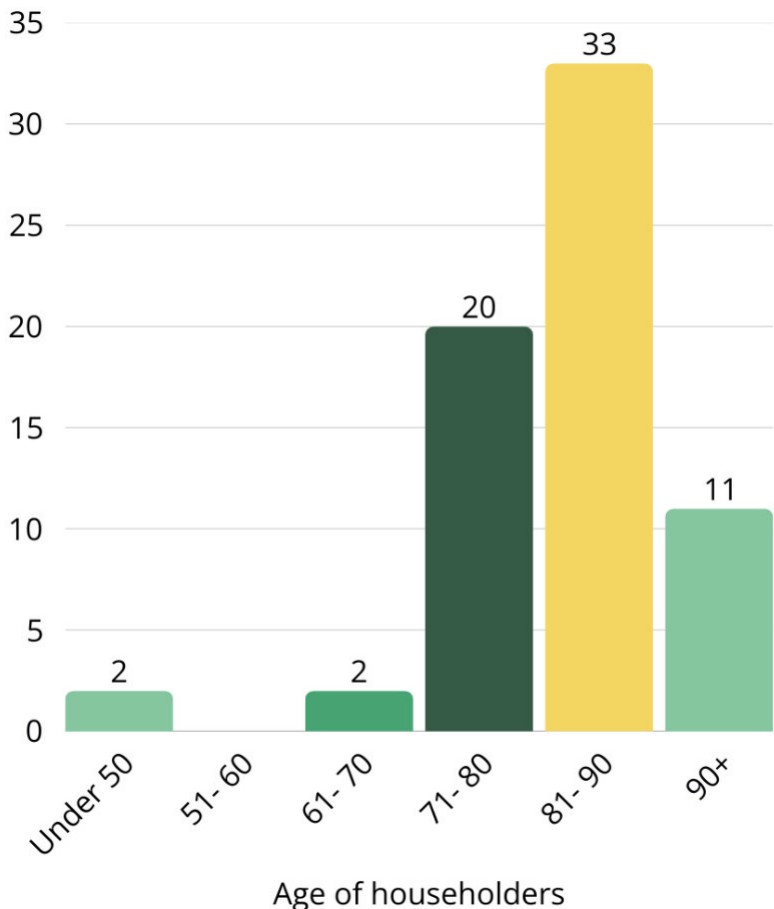
¹ Reported in May 2025 by seven Homeshare UK members.

Our householders



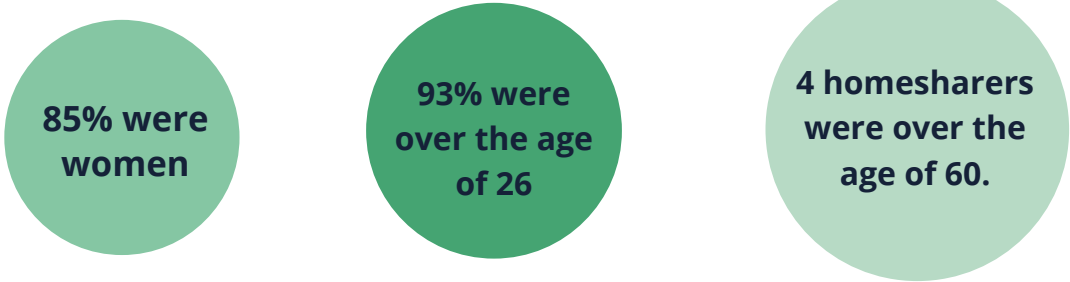
Householders across the Homeshare UK Network are mainly **older people**, either previously living alone or as part of a couple, some of whom were living with **dementia**, as well as **working-age adults with neurodiverse conditions**.

Referrals were from individuals themselves, family, friends or voluntary/community organisations.

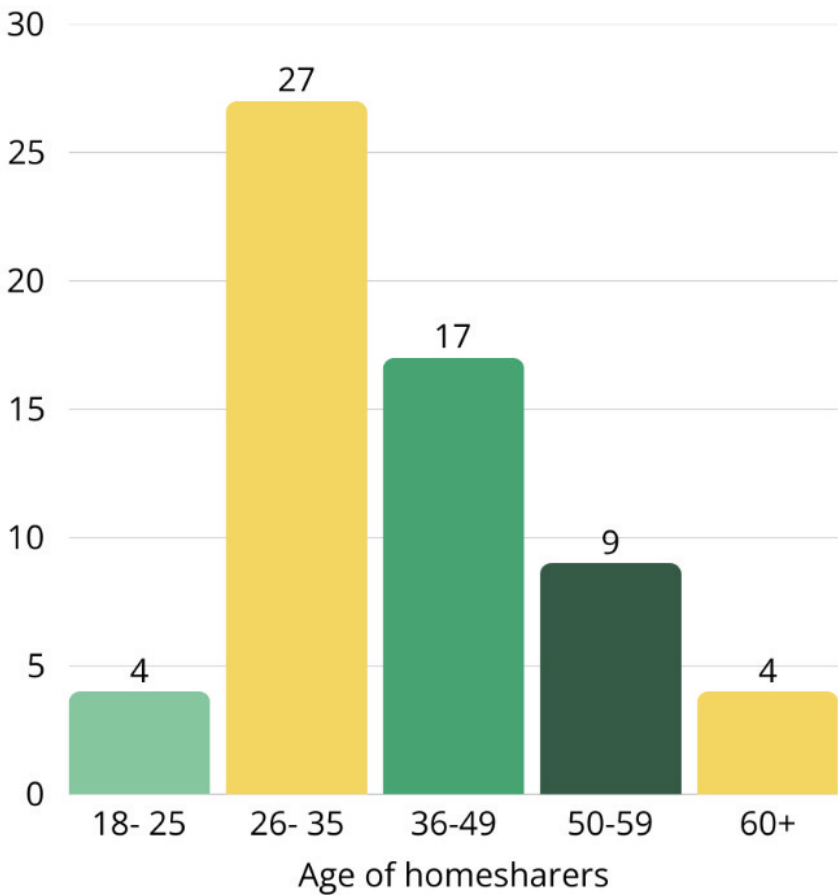


"Householders" are often older people who own their own home or are tenants, but need some support or have become isolated or anxious about living alone.

Our homesharers



In **2024-25**, the homesharers in our network were students, young professionals, public sector workers, retired or semi-retired people or those experiencing changes in their circumstances.



“Homesharers” are often younger people, students, or key public service workers. They may struggle to afford private rents, access council housing or are living in temporary accommodation.

Why choose Homeshare and the Homeshare UK Network?

Across the Homeshare UK Network people chose Homeshare for a variety of reasons:

Social connection and companionship

With loneliness across the lifespan increasing², householders and homesharers alike chose Homeshare for companionship and social connection.

For Paul, Homeshare brings a **sense of belonging and an answer to the high cost of living and isolation** he felt living alone. He was matched, by [Homeshare West](#), with Stephanie, a retired social worker in her late 70s, living with dementia, whose family were becoming concerned about her safety and wellbeing, particularly in the evenings.

Paul moved into Stephanie’s home, providing companionship and a little help with daily tasks in exchange for a place to live. The arrangement quickly developed into a supportive and rewarding friendship. Stephanie enjoys their conversations and feels more secure with someone in the house. Paul values the homely environment and appreciates Stephanie’s stories and life experience. The result is an intergenerational bond that enriches both their lives.

Sharing interests and having sociable meals is also valued:

“We eat together most evenings. It’s so much more enjoyable cooking for someone else, having someone to talk to over the evening meal and, from time to time, to cook something special. We tend to take it in turns to cook as we both enjoy it and are learning new recipes from each other.”

Householder with [Homeshare Oxfordshire](#).



Paul and Stephanie, Homeshare West

A safe, supportive and sociable home through careful matching

For householders, Homeshare often enables them, with a small amount of help and the reassurance of having someone close by overnight, to **stay living in their own home**.

“Homeshare Living took considerable trouble in finding a suitable match for my sister who at 69 was suffering from memory loss. Her homesharer provided invaluable support and extended the time in which my sister could live independently. In her words, she helped my sister to live her best life.” Testimonial from the sister of a householder with [Homeshare Living](#).

Homeshare also offers **peace of mind** to family members:

“Maria has been truly fantastic – kind, caring, considerate, and the most wonderful cook! She and Dad enjoy dinner together at least four nights a week. She’s always respectful and helpful, lending a hand with small tasks like watering the garden and walking with Dad to the butcher to choose meals for the week.

For us – his children and grandchildren – it’s incredibly reassuring to know that someone is living in the home with him. Even though Dad could still manage on his own, we believe that starting Homeshare Living before he needed help was one of the best decisions we’ve made.” Daughter of householder from Homeshare Living.

Homesharers, benefit from an **affordable, homely and comfortable place to live** with someone who cares, as explained by a homesharer matched through [Homeshare Oxfordshire](#):

‘It feels like home already and it really is a two-way thing. It’s lovely to get back from work and have someone to talk with about how our days have been. We both seem to really enjoy that.’

The depth of the intergenerational relationship formed is more than ‘housemates’, with one householder with [Leeds Homeshare](#) sharing *“I feel cared for.”*

Homeshare UK Network members provide safe support and companionship through robust vetting and matching, as well as ongoing assistance throughout the match. You can find out more in the informative webinar below, with Homeshare Network Members Emma (Leeds Homeshare) and Audrey (Homeshare West), alongside Professor Anne-Marie Bagnall (Professor of Health and Wellbeing Evidence at Leeds Beckett University)

[Watch here](#)



To make a meaningful difference

“I really like the idea of having somebody living with me who I could also support” Margaret, a retired householder with [Leeds Homeshare](#).

Householders appreciate the opportunity to **make use of the extra space in their home to help another person pursue their own life goals** (education/ work/ change of lifestyle) without the burden of costly accommodation. While homesharers often make use of their existing skills or life experience, to **make a difference to their own lives and those of the householders they are matched with**.

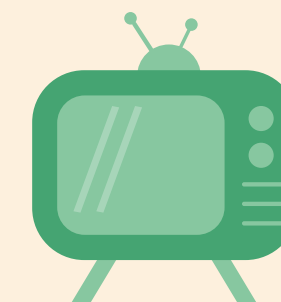
For a homesharer, matched by [Homeshare Living](#), this sense of purpose makes a difference:

“It’s lovely to spend time with someone and also benefit from having the structure of little responsibilities in my day, helping someone else which I didn’t have when I was living alone.”

The positive outcomes are often reciprocal and unexpected:

John and Nick, matched by [Homeshare West](#), have lived together for the past four years. For householder John, Homeshare has brought fun, laughter, banter and connection to the digital world. And for Nick, Homeshare means he has affordable accommodation, in an ideal location, whilst also benefitting from John’s local knowledge and life experience. You can hear more from John and Nick in the video below:

[Watch here](#)



Cost saving

In **2024-25**, householders paid up to **£200** a month to their Homeshare organisation for matching and ongoing support, with the average across the network being **£120** a month. With costs increasing across social care³ and household domestic services⁴, Homeshare continues to be an affordable choice for householders.



Homesharers, most commonly paid **£200** a month to their Homeshare organisation, though this varies depending on the organisation and area. In many cases homesharers also contributed to household utilities and/ or council tax. With the average monthly room rent in the UK reaching **£753**, homesharers are making huge financial savings⁵.



Summary

Homeshare, with its focus on reciprocity and human connection, has a profound impact on the lives of both householders and homesharers. And, thanks to the dedication of Homeshare UK Network members, Homeshare matches are not only safe and successful, but also well supported throughout.

“Where it operates, Homeshare helps by providing a place to live for homesharers, and companionship and a bit of support to householders. Whilst the number of matches has grown this year, it has so much more potential to grow. Shared Lives Plus, as the charity for the shared living community, will continue to make the case for Homeshare and encourage more people to become involved in this amazing model.”
Ewan King, Chief Executive of Shared Lives Plus.

For more information on the Homeshare model and the Homeshare UK Network of providers visit:

www.homeshareuk.org

³ <https://www.adass.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/ADASS-Spring-Survey-Final-15-July-2025.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ukbusinessmagazine.co.uk/self-employed-cleaner-hourly-rate-uk/>

⁵ <https://www.spareroom.co.uk/statistics/uk-rents-q3-2025>





**Find out more about Homeshare
at the Homeshare UK website or
contact our friendly team:**

- 📞 0151 227 3499
- 🌐 www.homeshareuk.org
- ✉ contact@homeshareuk.org
- 📘 HomeshareUKNetwork
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